

Tour

FRANCES SLOCUM STATE FOREST

*The Forest is located southeast of Peru along
the Mississinewa River and is composed
of 1250 acres mostly woodland*



FRANCES SLOCUM,
(FROM AN OLD PRINT)

Frances Slocum Trail, started in 1922 by an association of enthusiastic citizens of Peru, Peoria, Somerset, Wabash and Marion, leads to The Frances Slocum State Forest of 1,250 acres of woodland on the north side of the Mississinewa river. The State of Indiana proposes the establishment of the Mississinewa State Park at the east end of the Forest Reserve.

1.—Maconaquah Park

The tour starts with a drive through this Park of two hundred and twenty acres, owned by the City of Peru and dedicated to the memory of Frances Slocum whose Indian name was Maconaquah. Enter the Park from State Road No. 21. Over the hill to the right is a natural amphitheater now used as an athletic bowl, where in 1916 and again in 1926 the pageant Maconaquah was given. Along the Park drive may be seen the lower picnic and play grounds, wading pool, primeval forest, upper picnic grounds, eighteen hole golf course, and club house. The club house building was one of the earliest houses built in Miami County, almost one hundred years ago, and it is in a remarkable state of preservation, being today just as it was originally, excepting for the side porch and restored exterior woodwork.

2.—Frances Slocum Trail

The Trail proper starts at the south end of the Broadway Bridge and follows the Wabash River eastward to the Mississinewa River through farm grounds formerly owned by Ben Wallace, the Circus king. Just before crossing the bridge over the Mississinewa river, look up the river to the first farm building. Here once was located the Osage Indian Village, said to be the largest Indian Village in Indiana. Here lived many of the Indian Chiefs and for a time, Frances Slocum and her husband chief. Early historians report that Mississinewa Valley from this point to Marion, was a succession of Indian Villages, perhaps the most populated Indian area in Indiana.

3.—Circus Winterquarters.

Across the river bridge is a six hundred acre farm and the remaining buildings of what at one time was the largest circus winterquarters in the world. Here at one time were housed Hagenbeck-Wallace, Sells Floto, John Robinson, Ringling Brothers, and many other famous circuses. The farm and buildings are now owned by Emil Schram, native of Peru, now president of the New York Stock exchange, who expects some day to retire to this farm. The brick portion of the old residence was built by Chief Gabriel Godfroy, who in

his prime, owned the rich bottom land and lived here like a prince, lavishly entertaining Indians and white alike.

4.—Porter Home and Old Fashioned Garden

Beyond the winterquarters following the Frances Slocum Trail about a mile is the home of Kate Cole Porter, the mother of Cole Porter, the famous song composer. Here Cole was born and spent his boyhood days. His mother still lives there and is frequently visited by her famous son. Adjoining, a few rods to the east, is the location of the "old fashioned garden" and its "dear little shack" made famous by Cole Porter's popular song "The Old Fashioned Garden."



CLARENCE GODFROY

Grandson of Chief Gabriel Godfroy, at the grave of Frances Slocum Maconaquah "White Rose" of the Miamis, near Peru, Indiana.

5.—Cliffs of the Seven Pillars.

Just before you come to the big bend in the river, stop at a narrow land and walk to the river bank. This is the road leading to the old ford of horse and buggy days which was used before the river bridge was constructed. The cliffs are an attractive show place, visited annually by many hundreds of people from all over the state and out of the state. On top of the cliffs was a favorite meeting place for Indian Councils.

6.—Iddings Bridge

Stop on the bridge a moment. Up stream where the river begins to bend eastward is the beginning and the northwestern limits of the Frances Slocum State Forest. From that point, the state-owned land runs continuously upstream on that side of the river, for nearly seven and a half miles. Adjoining the bridge on the east side and to the south is Sulphur Springs Park, privately owned, very interesting in a scenic way and rich in tradition and history of the early Indians.

7.—Long View

This is the name of the farm of James (Jim) Long, now past eighty-five years of age, who has lived all his life in the vicinity of Peoria, and who personally knew all of the Indians of this section of the river from the middle of the last century. Beyond his home you can look across the valley and see the wooded hills of that part of the Frances Slocum Forest, formerly known as the Rassner Woods. The bottom land between the highway and the river would be inundated by a dam if constructed as mentioned above.

8.—Peoria.

This charming old town still retains much of its pioneer character. It is said to be older than Peru and was formerly called Reserve because most of the adjoining lands were Indian Reserve lands. Here was located the grist mill and a trading post, and this was the early business center for the white man's contacts with the Indians. Today it is the gateway to the Frances Slocum State Forest. The location of the old mill race can be easily seen. From the bridge southward for about twenty rods on the west side of the river, the land is owned by the state. This is the only state-owned land on this side of the river.

✓9.—Frances Slocum Home Site and Monument

Continue eastward along the highway. The old colonial type house on the right is the old Long homestead, built about ninety years ago. Across the river, all of the land is a part of the Frances Slocum State Forest. At the forks of the road, more than a mile above Peoria, continue left along the river to the Indian Cemetery. Here Frances Slocum was buried March 10, 1847. In May, 1900, the present monument was erected and dedicated. The cost of the monument was borne by relatives of the "White Rose" of the Indians, as Frances was called. Chief Shepoconah, husband of Frances, and two children, and many other Indians are buried in this cemetery. The inscriptions on the face of the large monument explain briefly the Frances Slocum story. Immediately adjoining the cemetery, to the east, is the location of the home where Frances Slocum lived during her later years. Portions of the foundations of the house may still be seen. East of this is a parking lot of about one acre in size, provided by the Mississinewa Valley Park Association, but now owned by Wabash County Commissioners who maintain it and the cemetery adjoining. Across the road are the buildings of the Monument Springs Farm, owned by James Long. Here is an unusual spring which was one of the reasons Frances Slocum and her husband selected this location for their home. Directly across the river, on the high bluff, is located the picnic grounds of the Frances Slocum Forest. Original plans for the development of this area called for a foot bridge to be constructed across the river to provide easy access to the Indian Cemetery and its adjoining area. East from the farm home the high wooded hills and the valley and the Blue Cliffs in the forest area can be seen. The road to the east ward, now abandoned, used to continue about a mile further to Broad Riffle where the river could be forded.

10.—Frances Slocum State Forest

Go back along the Frances Slocum Trail to Peoria and cross the river bridge. You now enter the State Forest which is divided into two portions by the highway called the Treaty Pike. Down river the area is wooded and

hilly and cut by several ravines, but is quite inaccessible due to the lack of roads, trails, or picnic areas.

At the top of the hill is the formal entrance to Frances Slocum State Forest, which really is only the entrance to the upper, or eastern part of the Forest. Near the entrance is the former C.C.C. Camp and the storage and maintenance buildings. In about half a mile, a road leads off to the right to Observation Point, where an excellent view of the river valley, Frances Slocum Trail, and the Peoria area may be had. Back to the main road and down a steep hill at the bottom of which you leave Miami County and enter Wabash County. In about a mile the road turns into the developed picnic area where the Conservation Department has erected a large rustic shelter house and where numerous fire places, tables, and benches have been provided. This area is visited by many thousands during the season. This area is directly opposite the Indian Cemetery and former home site of Frances Slocum. The trail down the hill and up the river leads to the Blue Cliffs and Rattlesnake Holler, as the Pioneers called it. There may have been rattlesnakes here in the past, but there are none there now.

11.—Mississinewa River State Park.

The Indiana Department of Conservation has selected an area of about 1650 acres adjacent to and including a portion of Frances Slocum State Forest as the best location for a State Park in this part of Indiana.

The proposed Park will extend to the quaint, old-fashioned town of Red Bridge and encompass all the area between the River and the present roads that lie nearest to the River. Here it is proposed to develop a recreational area similar to those in other State Parks with facilities of a hotel and cabins.

12.—Inspiration Point.

Go back from the picnic area to the main road and continue eastward. Down the hill you come to the bottom of Rattlesnake Holler. The wooded ravine to the left extends north a considerable distance and is an interesting area

for the hiker. Southwards toward the river the sides of the ravine are close together and here an earthen dam can easily be constructed, which would create a lake of from twenty to forty acres in size, depending on the height of the dam. Up the steep hill on the other side of the hollow you come to Inspiration Point. From here the river and the valley beyond for four or five miles, spreads out in a panorama which many have declared the most scenic view in Indiana north of Indianapolis.

13.—Broad Riffle.

Continue eastward on the Park road to the County Highway. Turn south to east and west road and turn right and follow the road past the caretaker's cottage and down the hill. This is a very steep hill, take it in low gear. At the bottom is Broad Riffle. Here natural rock formations in the river form a shallow dam which formerly was used as a ford. Above, the river is wider and the water still and deep.

14.—Devil's Washboard.

A small stream of water enters the river at Broad Riffle. A strenuous but interesting hike up this stream will greatly reward those who will take it. The stream winds through rock formations with miniature water falls and rapids, and caves hollowed out of the rocky sides of the ravine. Upward about one-half mile you will come to the most spectacular sight of the Forest Reserve. A waterfall of perhaps twenty-five to thirty feet in height, with only a thin sheet of water falling over it in dry seasons, which boy scout campers have named the Devil's Washboard. The waterfall is in a very spectacular wooded setting which is difficult to describe and must be seen to be appreciated.

15.—Rassner-Pecongare-Reardon Area.

Go north along the County road marking the east line of the Forest land to the first crossroad. This is the Treaty Pike. Turn west, or left, about two miles to a T-road. Turn north, or right, about forty rods then left, or west. This brings you again to the east-line of the lower and undeveloped section of the Forest Reserve. With the exception of a few acres with houses on them, all of the land to the west to the river is owned by the State. Follow this road about a mile north

and you come to a T-road intersection with undeveloped State Road No. 124. If the State Road were to continue westward from the intersection it would enter the State Forest in about forty rods. Follow road No. 124 westward past the original Wallace winter-quarters to the first road leading to the left, or south. This road will take you down to the State property and the section which formerly composed the Rassner-Pecongareardon Farms. This is all undeveloped and going back into the wild, with young trees planted in all open area. The lower portions of this section will all be inundated if a dam is constructed as suggested in item No. 6.

✓ **16.—Francis Godfroy Cemetery.**

Go back to road No. 124 and continue north and westward. When you come to the intersection with the Wabash River Road you will be at the old Indian Cemetery where Francis Godfroy and many of his relatives and other Indians are buried. This is an older cemetery than the Frances Slocum Cemetery. Francis Godfroy was the last primary Chief of the Miami Indians and was contemporary with, but older than Frances Slocum. At the top of the hill east of the Cemetery was located a famous Indian Council area where many of the treaties with the Indians were signed and where many of the War Council of Tecumseh Little Turtle, and other famous Indian chiefs were held. Across the road to the north from the cemetery was located the trading post of Francis Godfroy who dealt extensively with the Indians and the whites and who is said to have amassed a fortune, making him one of the wealthiest Indians of his day. Continuing on Road No. 124 westward at about a mile, you again strike the Frances Slocum Trail and return to Peru.

17.—Miami County Museums.

No tour of the Frances Slocum State Forest is complete without visiting one, or both of the historical museums. One of these is located in a wing of the Public Library at the corner of East Main Street and Huntington, where are located all of the pioneer relics which were leased at the time of the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 for exhibit in the Abraham Lincoln concession. ✓ The larger of the museums is on the fourth floor of the Miami County Court House.

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**INDIANA ROOM
PAMPHLET FILE**

STATE OF INDIANA
THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
RICHARD LIEBER, Director

Department Publication No. 109

Forestry Circular No. 8

SUGGESTIONS
FOR
TREE PLANTING
DURING THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL
AND FOR
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL FORESTS
BY
LESLIE R. RANDALL, District Forester
THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY
R. F. WILCOX, State Forester

**DO NOT CIRCULATE
REFERENCE**

WHAT IT IS ABOUT

George Washington was a lumberman and a conservationist as well as a great leader and statesman. Would he not rejoice if he could see one million trees planted in Indiana in his honor, and all for the welfare of the Indiana populace? A million trees mean so much more to the welfare of Indiana than is estimated by the average individual. Trees can be planted and dedicated to one of the greatest men of our country, and still be used for shade, ornament, or lumber. *George Washington would like very much to see a million trees in Indiana planted and dedicated to him.*

THE PLANTING OF TREES CAN SERVE TWO PURPOSES

The planting of trees in 1932 can serve a twofold purpose. The deplorable lack of timber in Indiana is realized. Excessive loss by the abandonment of certain rough soils could be offset by the planting of trees. For this reason the second Friday in April is designated as Arbor Day for tree planting. Trees planted on Arbor Day can also be dedicated to George Washington. It is the solemn duty of the people of Indiana to plant trees on Arbor Day and dedicate them to George Washington.

TYPES OF PLANTING

There are various types of planting to suit the individual or public group.

A forest planting is a planting of a large number of trees on an area for the purpose of growing timber. This timber is to be harvested as any other crop when it becomes mature. The maturing age will be determined by the species used, the fitness of the site, and such factors as available moisture and length of growing season.

It costs on an average of \$5.00 for hired labor to plant 1,200 trees or one acre of forest. Two men can plant approximately 1,200 trees in ten hours. The evergreen trees necessary to plant an acre, spaced 6' x 6', cost \$12.00 from the State Forest Nursery. Civic and patriotic groups should plant their own memorial forests and save labor costs.

A windbreak planting consists of one or more rows of trees planted at regular intervals for the purpose of protecting buildings, farm crops or orchards from the wind. Windbreaks of two or three rows are recommended. A windbreak of one row of trees will offer considerable protection, but a two or three row windbreak will provide much more protection. The factors to be considered in determining the number of rows are the amount or quality of protection desired and the force of the wind on the area to be protected.

Trees for forest and windbreak plantations may be secured from the State Forest Nursery. Evergreens are \$10.00 per thousand, hardwoods are \$5.00 per thousand.

An ornamental planting is the use of a single tree, or a limited number of them, for the purpose of beautifying the surroundings. Ornamental trees may be planted singly or in a group. Such trees are placed along driveways, in dooryards, and in parkways. Secure ornamental and shade trees from your local nurseryman.

ROADSIDE PLANTING

Roadside planting is difficult, although people certainly enjoy driving along a highway that is bordered with shade trees. Roadside plantings serve both ornamental and shade tree purposes.

Factors to be Considered in Roadside Planting:

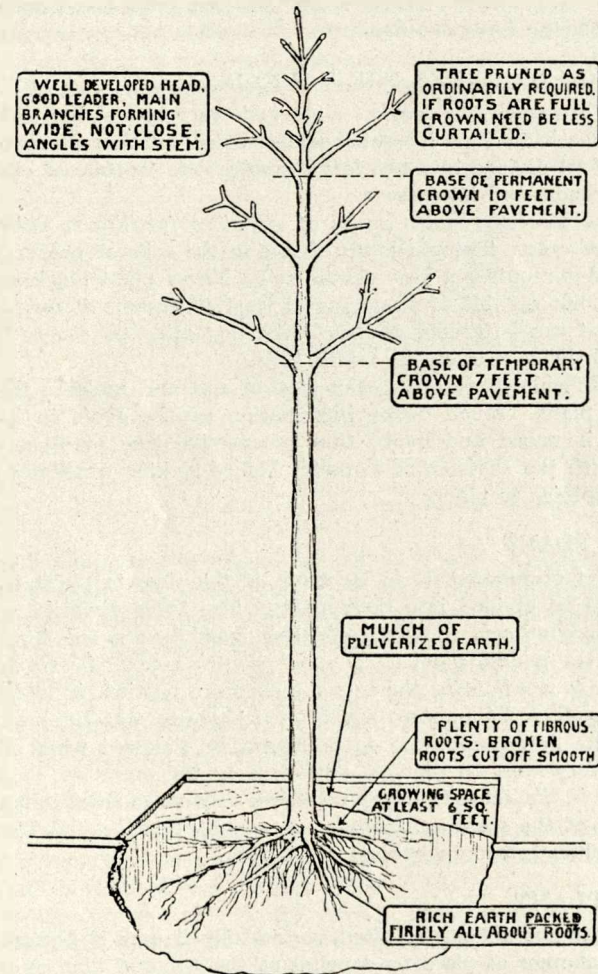
1. Secure permission to plant along state highways from the District Engineer of the State Highway Department. See the County Commissioners before planting other roads. Your County Agricultural Agent can tell you how to get in touch with officials of the State Highway Department.
2. Get permission from the adjoining farmers and land owners to plant along their fences.
3. Have the road authorities designate the location of the trees in relation to curves, visibility, and drainage channels.
4. Do not plant underneath telephone and telegraph wires.
5. Plant elms, maples, and oaks. Whenever possible secure well-rooted stock of medium size from private nurseries.
6. If impossible to buy from private nurseries, dig trees from 5'-6' high from open exposed fields.
7. Always dig and plant very carefully. Move the trees quickly keeping the roots moist constantly.

8. Make a plan of the project and secure bids from private nurserymen on the necessary planting stock.

9. The State Forest Nursery does not supply trees for roadside planting.

PLANTINGS TO BE MADE BY

Plantings are not limited to any class of individuals or organizations. Anyone and everyone is invited and encouraged to plant trees for shade, ornamental and forestry purposes.



HOW TO PLANT A TREE

Fig. 1. Never cut the top leader back. If the top is too large for the roots trim carefully only the undermost branches.

Any civic organization, whether of men, women, or young people, can very well make a George Washington Memorial Planting. Very little time and money are necessary. Any club can raise the small amount of money necessary to make a memorial planting. Women's Clubs, Men's Clubs, 4-H Clubs, in fact everyone is invited to participate in this great movement for the planting of trees.

Colleges and schools are very good organizations to undertake this project. Our schools are built for education and such a movement is highly educational, as well as producing something quite valuable. Students take more pride in their school grounds if in some manner they assist in placing trees on them.

SELECTION OF TREES FOR VARIOUS SOILS

Trees are much like people. Each and every species has its likes and dislikes. Each one has its own requirements and characteristics. The trees are first divided into two large groups: the conifers or evergreens, and the broadleaved hardwoods.

The hardwoods require a soil of sufficient fertility to raise a good agricultural crop. The pines will thrive in the soils of poorer fertility. Black walnut requires a very fertile soil. Never plant black walnut on soil that is not capable of producing at least 40 bushels of corn per acre. Black locust can be grown on practically any soil. Of course the evergreens will thrive, too, on the fertile soils.

It is difficult to describe each type of soil and indicate the proper species to plant. Much better information can be given in individual cases. It is urged and hoped that prospective tree planters will get in touch with the Division of Forestry before making a definite decision as to the species to plant.

TIME TO PLANT

If strict observance is to be made of the time to plant trees, the state should be divided into three parts. The three divisions would be the extreme southern, *in which planting could be started from March 10th-30th*; the middle portion, *in which planting could be started from March 20th to April 15th*; the extreme northern portion, *in which planting could be started from April 1st-25th*. Unforeseen weather may change these dates. Although these dates should be followed when planting, trees can very well be planted anywhere in the state on Arbor Day. *Arbor Day is the second Friday in April.* Planting should stop in the three parts of the state as follows: extreme southern, April 15th; middle, April 20th; extreme northern, April 30th.

HOW TO PLANT

Trees are not difficult to plant successfully if care is devoted to the task. The manner of planting depends on the size and kind of the tree, whether it is "balled and burlaped," or packed in wet moss. Large trees require much larger and deeper holes than small trees. Trees with long tap roots, such as black walnut, oaks, and tulip poplar, require a very deep hole. They should be planted only when small. Ordinarily,

the evergreens require a large but shallow hole. A tree of which the roots are balled and burlaped must have a hole sufficient to take care of the large ball of dirt on the roots. The tree should be planted a little deeper than it grew in the nursery. The roots must have sufficient room so that they are not cramped when planted.

Forest planting stock, such as hardwoods or broadleaved trees of one year of age, and evergreens of four or five years, can best be set with a mattock or grub hoe. The digger goes ahead and digs a hole sufficiently large to accommodate the tree. The planter follows with his trees in a bucket of water, removes one tree from the bucket and lowers it in the hole; he then places dirt around the roots until they are covered. After this he finishes filling the hole and tamps down the earth very firmly. It should be tamped enough so that several pounds pull on the tree will not dislodge it.

The spacing used depends on the purpose of the planting. Trees planted for forestry purposes should be planted 6' x 6'. Trees planted

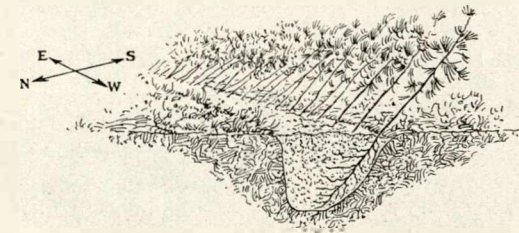


Fig. 2. Open the bundle of trees and heel in a trench with the moist earth firmly packed about the roots of each seedling. Dig the trench east and west and slope the seedling tops toward the south to prevent the sun from scalding the tender stems.

for a windbreak should be planted 6' x 6' or 8' x 8'. Ornamental trees are planted singly. In some cases they are planted in groups. They should never be closer than 4 or 5 feet. It is best to plant roadside trees at intervals of about 30 feet. The 6' x 6' spacing gives tall, straight, and good clean trees for lumber purposes. The 6' x 6' spacing in a windbreak forms a formidable barricade against the icy winds, especially if trees in one row alternate with the adjoining row. Roadside spacing of 30 feet gives beautifully shaped trees for shade.

THE NEED OF TREE PLANTING IN INDIANA

Most people do not realize the need of tree planting in Indiana. We have always been able to secure a good supply of timber, and have not stopped to think where it came from or the millions of dollars of freight charges to ship it into the state. The constant drain on our forests has made it difficult to secure the quality of timber that our forefathers used. The following statements will give the reader some idea of the present condition in Indiana. *In 1930 there were 200,000 acres burned by forest fires and only 750 acres planted. There were 200,000,000 board feet of lumber cut, or only about one-fifth of the total amount consumed. There are 2,000,000 acres of waste land in Indiana.*

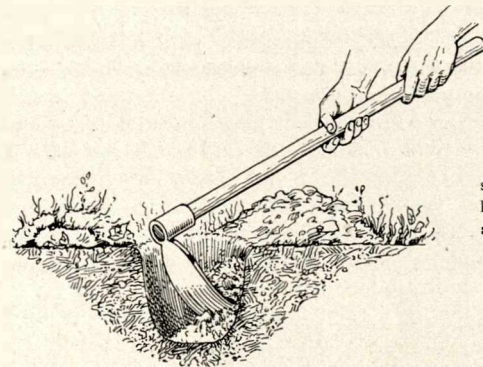


Fig. 3.

Fig. 3. Hole dug with ample space for roots. Surface sod or leaves separated from mineral earth at the edge of the hole.

Fig. 4. The mineral earth should be crumbled evenly about the roots of the seedling. Do not cramp the roots.

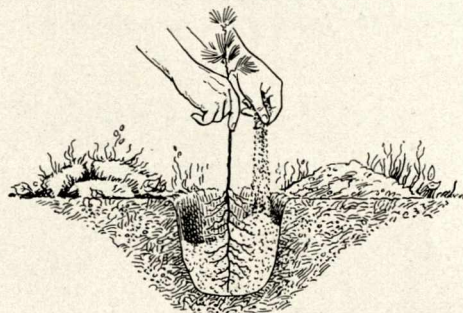


Fig. 4.

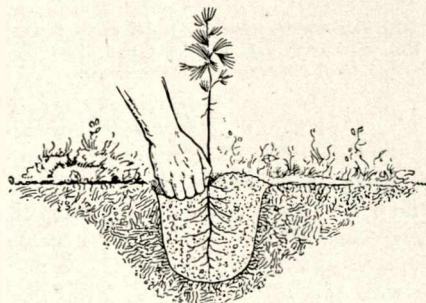


Fig. 5.

Fig. 5. Pack the mineral earth down firmly before spreading the sod or leaf mulch over the ground surface.

Fig. 6. Distribute sod or leaf cover around the stem of the seedling and pack firmly with the toe. The planted seedling should be firm enough to resist several pounds' pull.

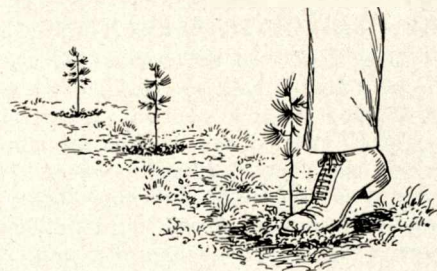


Fig. 6.

Our worn-out and eroded lands are crying for trees and protective forests.

SELECTION OF TREES FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES

SOIL FERTILITY	PURPOSE			
	Forestry	Windbreak	Ornamental	Shade and Roadside
SOIL OF GOOD FERTILITY	Hardwoods: Red Oak White Oak Tulip Poplar Hard Maple Black Walnut *Black Locust	Evergreens: White Pine Red Pine Norway Spruce White Spruce Arbor Vitae	Hardwoods: Sugar Maple American Elm Tulip Poplar White Oak Red Oak Pin Oak	Hardwoods: Sugar Maple American Elm Chinese Elm White Oak Red Oak Tulip Poplar Black Walnut
	Evergreens: White Pine Red Pine Shortleaf Pine Jack Pine Norway Spruce White Spruce		Evergreens: Arbor Vitae White Pine Red Pine Norway Spruce Douglas Fir Blue Spruce Silver Fir	
SOIL OF FAIR FERTILITY OR LESS	Hardwoods: *Black Locust	Evergreens: White Pine Red Pine Scotch Pine	Hardwoods: Sugar Maple American Elm Pin Oak White Oak Red Oak Sweet Gum	Hardwoods: Sugar Maple American Elm Chinese Elm White Oak Red Oak Tulip Poplar Black Walnut
	Evergreens: White Pine Red Pine Jack Pine Scotch Pine Western Yellow Pine		Evergreens: Arbor Vitae White Pine Red Pine Norway Spruce White Spruce Blue Spruce Silver Fir	

* Good for soil erosion control, but damaged for timber purposes by the locust borer insect. It should be remembered that the evergreens do not do best in the very fertile black loams. They prefer a slightly gravelly or sandy soil.

WHERE TO SECURE TREES TO PLANT

Trees for forestry and farm windbreak plantings can be secured from the Division of Forestry at Indianapolis. It must be clearly understood that shade and ornamental trees can not be bought from the State Nursery. Trees of this type should be bought from an ornamental nursery. Consult your County Agricultural Agent who will be glad to serve you and place you in touch with a reliable nurseryman in your locality.

ESTABLISH A GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL OR
DEMONSTRATION FOREST IN YOUR COMMUNITY

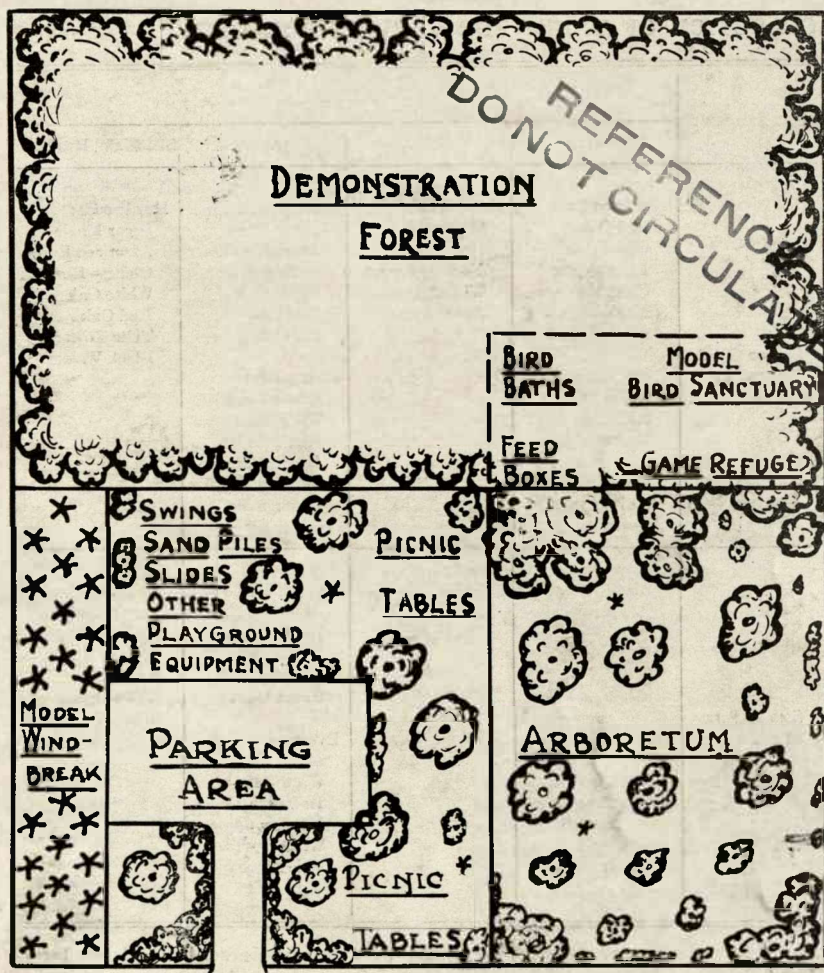


Fig. 7

You or your organization could perform no greater or finer community service than to sponsor the establishment of a George Washington Memorial or Demonstration Forest.

The above diagram is a model which can be adapted to any land site of five to fifty acres.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Anyone who desires detailed information concerning tree planting should consult the Division of Forestry, Room 133, State House. The State Forester is always at your service.